

November 30, 1960

Dr. George Klein  
Department of Tumor Biology  
Karolinska Institutet  
Stockholm 60, Sweden

Dear George:

Your report on the virus susceptibility of the polyoma tumor is quite a startling result. I wonder if it does not reopen a question I think we have discussed before, namely, that the virus (like methylcholanthrene!) may act not primarily on the somatic cells which engender the tumor but on the host to allow the expression of spontaneous mutants. I had the impression until now that there was good evidence that the virus was concentrated in the actual tumors and this I take it, is no longer tenable.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics